

-106-

What is claimed is:

1. A compound comprising 8 to 30 nucleotides connected by covalent linkages, wherein said oligonucleotide has a sequence specifically hybridizable 5 with a nucleic acid encoding a B7 protein and said compound modulates the expression of said B7 protein.
2. The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.
3. The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of 10 said covalent linkages is a modified covalent linkage.
4. The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of said nucleotides has a modified sugar moiety.
5. The compound of claim 4, wherein said modified sugar moiety is a modification at the 2' position of any 15 nucleotide, the 3' position of the 3' terminal nucleotide or the 5' position of the 5' terminal oligonucleotide.
6. The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of said nucleotides has a modified nucleobase.
7. The compound of claim 1 wherein said 20 oligonucleotide comprises at least one lipophilic moiety which enhances the cellular uptake of said oligonucleotide.
8. The compound of claim 1 wherein said B7 protein is human B7-1.
9. The compound of claim 8 wherein said sequence 25 comprises SEQ ID NO: 228, 231, 234, 235, 237, 238, 240, 241, 243, 247, 248, 250 or 251.
10. The compound of claim 1 wherein said B7 protein is human B7-2.
11. The compound of claim 10 wherein said sequence 30 comprises SEQ ID NO: 256, 257, 259, 263, 267, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 278, 280, 282, 283, 284 or 285.

-107-

12. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. The composition of claim 12 further comprising an anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive agent.

5 14. A composition comprising

- (a) the compound of claim 8;
- (b) the compound of claim 10 and
- (c) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. The composition of claim 14 further comprising an  
10 anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive agent.

16. A method of modulating the expression of a B7 protein in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with a compound of claim 1.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said cells or  
15 tissues are antigen presenting cells.

18. A method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition in an animal comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

20 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition is psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis.

25 20. A method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition in an animal comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition of claim 12.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition is psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis.

30 22. A method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition in an animal comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition of claim 14.

-108-

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition is psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis.

24. A method of inhibiting a T cell response in  
5 antigen-presenting cells comprising contacting antigen presenting cells with a compound of claim 1.

25. A method of inhibiting allograft rejection in an animal comprising administering to said animal a compound of claim 1.

10 26. A method of inhibiting allograft rejection in an animal comprising administering to an animal an anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive agent and a compound of claim 1.

15 27. A method of inhibiting allograft rejection in an animal comprising administering to the animal the composition of claim 12.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising administering to the animal an anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive agent.

20 29. A method of inhibiting allograft rejection in an animal comprising administering to the animal the composition of claim 14.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising administering to the animal an anti-inflammatory or  
25 immunosuppressive agent.